

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been canceled and claims 2, 3, 9, 10, and 13-19 have been amended. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 2-20 will be pending in this application.

As described in greater detail below, the specification has been amended in response to the Examiner's objections to the drawings and Abstract.

Applicant respectfully submits all amendments are fully supported by applicant's specification and that no new matter is introduced by the present amendments.

Response to Election of Species Requirement

As discussed during the telephone conference with the Examiner and Paul I. J. Fleischut (Reg. No. 35,513) on October 3, 2005, applicant hereby elects to prosecute species I set forth in claims 1-18. Based on this election of species, claims 19 and 20 are withdrawn from consideration. However, as noted in greater detail below, each of these claims directed to non-elected species are entitled to consideration due to presentation of the allowable claim from which they depend in independent form (i.e., claim 20 depends from claim 13) or amendment of the withdrawn claim to depend from an allowable claim presented in independent form (i.e., claim 19 has been amended to depend from claim 13). Thus, these claims have not been indicated as withdrawn in the Listing of Claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges the indication at page 11 of the Office action that the subject matter of claims 13-18 is allowable. Claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form incorporating all the limitations of claim 1. Thus, applicant

respectfully submits claims 13-18 are in condition for allowance.

Objections to the Drawings

Paragraph [0014] beginning at page 4, line 19 of applicant's specification, paragraph [0027] beginning at page 5, line 28 of applicant's specification, and paragraph [0028] beginning at page 6, line 1 of applicant's specification have been amended to replace the term "posts" with "pedestals" to provide consistency with respect to reference character "8." Corresponding amendments to claims 13-18 to replace the term "posts" with "pedestals" have also been made.

Similarly, paragraph [0026] beginning at page 5, line 23 of applicant's specification has been amended to replace "pivot axis 7" with "a pin 7 forming a pivot axis" to provide consistency with respect to reference character "7."

In view of these amendments, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections to the drawings.

Objection to the Abstract

The Abstract appearing at page 16 of applicant's specification has been amended to not exceed 150 words in accordance with MPEP 608.01(b). Thus, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection thereto.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112 (first paragraph)

Claims 13-17 have been amended to require a "mounting" plate opening rather than a "base" plate opening. Thus, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §112 (first paragraph).

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112 (second paragraph)

Claim 13, as amended, requires that the mounting plate opening is substantially larger than dimensions of the peg in two directions that are perpendicular to each other, so that the clamping plate, the hold-down plate, and the base plate can shift relative to the mounting plate in two directions. Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to depend from claim 13 and claim 4 depends indirectly from claim 13 by virtue of its dependency on claim 2. Thus, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-4 for a lack of antecedent basis for the term "shift."

Claims 9 and 10 have been amended to require a positive-fit connection comprising elongated recesses in addition to specifying the longitudinal direction of the recesses. Thus, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9 and 10 for a lack of antecedent basis for the term "elongated recesses."

Claim 13 has been amended to include proper antecedent basis for the term "shift direction."

Claim 2 has been amended to require that the shift in the two directions that are perpendicular to each other is at least 4 cm, thereby clearly indicating reference to the two directions having antecedent basis in claim 13. Thus, applicant respectfully submits the subject matter of claim 2 is clear and further respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of this claim under 35 U.S.C. §112 (second paragraph).

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1 has been canceled and claim 13 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of claim 1. Thus, applicant

respectfully submits the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) has been obviated.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 2-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). As previously noted, allowable claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form incorporating all the limitations of claim 1 and, accordingly, is in condition for allowance. Upon entry of the present amendments, each of claims 2-12 will depend directly or indirectly from claim 13. Thus, applicant respectfully submits claims 2-12 are likewise in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully solicited. Applicant does not believe there are any fees due in connection with the timely submission of this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,



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